

Application Serial No: 10/672,969
In reply to Office Action of 02 April 2004

Attorney Docket No. 82829

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 2 with the following:

Referring now to the Figures, the air bag launch assembly 10 includes a payload bay or pressure container 12 designed to be mounted externally on a hull, one or more smaller canisters 14 for storing a weapon, vehicle, or other device (not shown) and which is sized to fit within the larger pressure container 12; and one or more air bag inflators 16 (FIG. 4) supported on a corresponding canister. The weapon, vehicle, or other device can be generally termed as a payload. The larger pressure container 12 is preferably watertight and should be made of a material that can withstand ocean pressure to the deepest operating depths of the submarine hull to which the pressure container is to be attached. The containers 12 may be removably attached to the hull of the submarine in any known manner and may preferably include a body 18 sized to hold the smaller canisters 14, and a cover or hatch 20 which is moveable between a closed (FIG. 1) and an open (FIG. 2) position for launching the canisters 14. The body 18 may preferably be cylindrical, as shown, or any alternate shape. In the closed position, the pressure container 12 will normally be filled with air until a canister launch is desired. Because the large pressure containers 12 are used to protect the devices stored within the

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smaller canisters 14 from the corrosive seawater, they should also be made of a corrosion resistant material. A watertight seal may also be provided so that the containers remain watertight when closed as the submarine maneuvers through the ocean environment.